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THE

INTERIM

A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

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AUGUST 1986

VOL. V. NO. 15

JOINT INTERIM SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIABILITY ISSUES

THIRD
MEETING
AUGUST 15

The third meeting of the Joint Interim Subcommittee on Liability Issues is scheduled for Friday, August 15. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

During this meeting, staff will present reports on tort reform, insurance regulation, and other topics. The Subcommittee also will solicit proposals from interested persons and groups on legislative approaches to governmental and private liability problems. Proposals presented to the Subcommittee should describe in detail what state legislation is needed, how the legislation addresses governmental or private liability issues, and what results are expected from enacting the legislation.

Persons interested in presenting proposals to the Subcommittee at the August meeting should notify staff (Valencia Lane, Lois Menzies, or Paul Verdon) at (406) 444-3064 by Friday, August 8, so their presentations can be scheduled.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

GREAT FALLS
MEETING
SEPT. 18, 19

The next meeting of the Environmental Quality Council will be held on September 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. The regular business meeting will be conducted on the morning of the 18th.

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Beginning at 1 p.m. on the 18th and continuing through the afternoon of the 19th, EQC and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy will cohost a seminar, titled "Innovative Approaches to Subdivision Regulation." The seminar features several nationally noted experts on subdivision law and policy. These speakers will review approaches to subdivision regulation applied by various state and local jurisdictions across the nation, and they will discuss the potential relevance of these approaches to Montana.

During the afternoon of the 19th, representatives of various Montana interest groups will participate in working groups with the invited speakers. The groups, which will run consecutively, will consider the purposes of subdivision regulation, improvements to the review process, and the appropriate state role in subdivision regulation.

The seminar is being held as part of EQC's comprehensive review of state subdivision regulations. The Council hopes to reach consensus on possible changes in subdivision laws or regulations to recommend to the 1987 Legislature.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

JULY 25
MEETING
CONSIDERS
STAFF PAY

At its July 25 meeting, the Legislative Council voted to continue its policy of adopting the statewide pay matrix for Council staff so that staff moved to the 1987 pay matrix. The Executive Director's salary is not included in the pay plan and will remain at the 1986 level.

CONSOLIDATION
CONSIDERED

Preliminary plans to consolidate the legislative branch accounting-payroll functions were revealed.

NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 28

The Council will meet again August 28 to make a final decision on the consolidation and adopt the Council's proposed 1988-89 budget.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORS

JULY 29
MEETING HELD

The directors of the Legislative Council, Legislative Auditor, and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst offices met July 29 for their regular monthly meeting. The primary topic of discussion was possible consolidation of various support functions of legislative branch staffs such as accounting, purchasing, computer services, and clerical.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETINGS SET As this issue is being mailed, the Finance Committee is meeting. Watch for a report next month. The next scheduled meeting is September 12 and 13.

APPROPRIATION REPORT The LFA staff has worked hard to prepare the "Appropriation Report for Special Session III, 1987 Biennium." The report was issued August 2 and is being mailed to each legislator. Watch for it this week.

COAL TAX OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER DATES CHOSEN Meetings on September 18 and November 13 were scheduled by the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee at the conclusion of its hearing on the effectiveness of the New Coal Production Incentive Tax Credit on July 18. During those two future meetings, the Subcommittee will complete its work for the interim and determine its recommendations to the 50th Legislature.

JULY 17, 18 REPORT Members of the Subcommittee, accompanied by legislators from Butte and Anaconda, visited Western Energy's coal beneficiation research project in Butte on July 17. Company officials explained the progress toward development of processes to dehydrate coal and thereby improve the quality and marketability of Montana's coal.

During the hearing on July 18, the Subcommittee heard reports from the Schwinden Administration, university researchers, coal producers, the Burlington Northern, and an impartial research group.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Conspicuously absent in July and August are meetings of the Revenue Oversight Committee. The meeting tentatively scheduled for July was postponed until September as a cost-saving measure.

NEXT MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER September, however, brings a return to activity. The Committee will meet on the afternoon of Thursday, September 4, to discuss the scope and direction of the tax study required with the adoption of House Bill No. 1 during Special Session III.

ROC members have been invited--and requested by ROC Chairman Representative Mel Williams--to attend a September 5-6 conference on "Taxation and the Montana Economy." The conference is being jointly sponsored by MSU and UM and will be held in Helena at the Colonial Inn. The purpose of the conference is to discuss trends in Montana's economic base and Montana taxation. It should be a good starting point in the Committee's examination of Montana taxation.

The following week, the Committee will return to Helena for a regular work meeting on September 11-12. Agenda items for this meeting include a discussion of draft legislation resulting from the SJR 14 study, i.e., property tax collections, sales, and the tax deeding process, and requests by the Department of Revenue for ROC sponsorship of a variety of revenue-oriented legislation. As the meeting is more than six weeks away, the agenda is not yet very well developed.

Returning to an item mentioned earlier, meetings at which the tax study will be the agenda have not been set yet, and most likely won't be set until after the September 4 meeting. When set, a calendar of the meetings will be published in the Interim--so stay alert.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

AUGUST 15
MEETING IN
BILLINGS

The next meeting of the Committee on Indian Affairs is scheduled for Friday, August 15. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 2222 of the Federal Building, 316 North 26th Street, Billings, Montana.

Agenda items for this meeting include discussions of the Little Shell Band's efforts to obtain federal recognition and the Blackfeet Tribe's recently enacted tax code and liquor ordinance. The Committee will also review legislative options in the areas of alcoholism and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIRED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

AUGUST 22
DATE SET

The next meeting of the Select Committee on Health Insurance for Retired Public Employees is scheduled for Friday, August 22. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

During this meeting, the Committee will continue to explore ways to help public employees meet their health insurance needs after retirement. Proposals under consideration include permitting employees to apply their unused sick leave toward payment of their health insurance after retirement and creating a trust fund program for payment of retiree premiums.

WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

BILLINGS MEETING HELD

The Water Policy Committee completed its review of most interim study topics at a July 14 meeting in Billings. On the following day, Committee members participated with legislators from nine other Missouri Basin states in lively discussions of water management and water rights within the region. The Missouri Basin seminar was sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

NEXT DATE IN OCTOBER

The next meeting of the Water Policy Committee is tentatively scheduled for October 6-7 in Billings. The Committee will review its final report and begin to develop policy options for legislative consideration.

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LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 LILN LAWS - Rm. 104-9am	2
3	4 -LOC - Oil-Gas Tour - Rocky Front	5	6 Mountain --	7	8	9
10	11 ACC - Rm.108 8:30am	12	13	14	15 INDIAN AFFAIRS Billings LIABILITY ISSUES Rm.104 - 8am	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE Rm.104	23
24	25	26	27	28 LEG. COUNCIL Rm. 132	29	30
31						

*ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 ROC-Tax Study Rm. 104	5 INFRASTRUCTURE COMM.-Rm.104	6
7	8	9	10	11 -----ROC - Room 325-----	12 --LIABILITY ISSUES-Rm.108-- 8am -LFG. FINANCE COMM.-Rm.104	13
14	15	16	17	18 CTO-Rm.104 ----- EQC --Great Falls----	19 20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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